

NOTICE.

HONGKONG—CAPE D'AGUILAR LIGHT.

NOTICE is hereby given, that a Light will be exhibited at the Cape of D'Agulier on and after the 16th of April next.

The illuminating Apparatus is fixed *Dipperis* of the First Order showing a White Light on the following Bearings, which are Magnetic and taken from Seaward.1.—From S. 45° 3' W. to N. 55° 1' W. Between these Bearings the light is obscured by the Islands of the Nine Pins, and the Island just South of *Wofan*.The Light is then obscured by *Sooenong* Island.

2.—From N. 21° 0' W. to N. 42° 0' W.

The Light is then obscured by the *Lema* Islands, and the Islands to the Southward of them.3.—From N. 33° E. to N. 69° E. Between these Bearings the Light is obscured by Vessels to the Southward of the *Ting* Island, and the Island of *Sooenong*.4.—The Bearings Channel with the exception of a small portion obscured by *Shieko* Head.

The total plane of the Light is 200 feet above mean sea level, and in clear weather it should be seen at a distance of 33 Nautical Miles.

The Tower is round, of stone 30 feet high, with a total height from its base to the lantern of 100 feet.

The Dwellings and Boundary Walls are painted White.

The Lighthouse is in Latitude 23° 12' 14" N. Longitude 114° 16' 44" E.

H. G. THOMASPT, R.N., Harbour Master, &c.

Hongkong, 19th March, 1875. [In 479]

The Daily Press

HONGKONG, APRIL 15TH, 1875.

It is nothing new to say that the state of trade in China is bad, or that the paltry days of the colony of Hongkong have to all appearance departed. The facts are too apparent to need proof; no one will dream of contradicting the assertion. But unfortunately things do not appear to have reached their worst—the point at which it is popularly supposed they begin to mud. The Harbour Master's last annual report showed a decrease in the tonnage of the shipping last year as compared with that of 1873 of 654,764 tons. And there is reason to believe that the decline has been continued into the present year. Merchants universally complain of the smallness of transactions, and on every hand the community are retching, because they find it imperatively necessary. Empty houses, formerly not to be met with, are now abundant, and rents are decreasing materially. The value of house property and of all classes of shares has diminished, and the dollar has reached a point it was once supposed it could not sink to. Even in their amusement the colonists have grown chary of spending. Everywhere economy is the cry, and my man can now afford to be lavish. Time was when hospitality was boundless, when the most free-handed generosity was practised, and dollars were almost as plentiful as blackberries on English hedges in autumn. It was sufficient in those days to be here to make a fortune. Enterprise and enterprise were scarcely needed. Any man with the most ordinary ability and industry could scarcely fail to prosper. But that is a dream of the past. To win money now it is essential to work for it, and the pursuit is beset with difficulties the first residents were, happily for them, strangers to. Competition is yearly growing keener, and is almost as severe as it is encountered at home. All things tend to make the accumulation of even a moderate fortune in the far East a matter of difficulty and time.

And yet there is no good reason why a portion at least of the old prosperity of Hongkong should not return. It is not likely that it will ever be possible for merchants and others to grow suddenly rich, like they did in the good old days, for the telegraph and the *Suei* Canal conjoinly have well nigh rendered that impossible, but the colony may yet prove a fine field for the industrious and enterprising. The port affords unrivalled facilities for the carrying on of trade with the south of China, and its natural advantages are not to be surpassed. It seems pre-eminently fitted to remain what it has hitherto been, the key to the foreign trade with China; and still trade languishes. Where is the remedy? We believe it lies in securing fresh outlets for capital, fresh fields of industry. Free transit through China ought to be insisted upon, and there is little doubt that in these consist the best means of securing and preserving commercial prosperity and international peace. The Empire of China must be opened up, and foreigners of respectability allowed to settle in the interior. The time has come to speak out plainly and with no uncertain sound, and the sooner the Government of Peking begins to accustom itself to the idea the better. We cannot go on thus, for ever, with the old walls of exclusion erect before us, barring all chance of improvement. They must be broken down, and China consent to receive and treat us as civilised nations do. The work is not so difficult that the English Government need fear to face it. The United States will, we believe, be ready to co-operate in a work which promises to be so fruitful of good both to foreign and Chinese interests, and such an alliance would be irresistible. There would be no armed resistance, no bloodshed resultant; the Chinese are fully conscious that it would be folly to offer such, and they would, as they have before, only without futile opposition, yield to the superior might of the Caucasian.

It may be argued that a course like that above sketched savours too much of the arrogance of command, that it may be compared to the tyranny of a big bully. Not so. It rather resembles the action of a parent to an obstinate and forward child, who, knowing what is best for both, resolutely insists upon a certain course being pursued. But, some will say, will there not be some danger in so doing of giving a check to the march of progress as auspiciously begun? There would not. The only progress China is likely to make under the present regime, and while she maintains her present exclusive system, is in adopting sundry improvements in navigation, engineering, in military tactics and defensive weapons, in order to render herself more completely independent of Western aid, and to enable her to keep out the "barbarians" yet more rigidly. The China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company was started and subsidised for the express purpose of fighting foreigners with their own weapons, and driving them with competition out of China. It is, as a northern contemporary remarks, worthy of record, when speaking of the progress of

China, that the tonnage dues raised from this "Company's" steamers do not contribute one cash towards the maintenance of lights or the conservation of harbours". The steps recently taken towards developing the Kiangsu and the iron and coal mines of

Chihli are prompted by the same motives.

Iron has become more valuable; the mines must therefore be worked by machinery to prevent the necessity of importing foreign produce; coal is needed for Chinese steamers; why spend Chinese silver in purchasing foreign fuel? No; Chinese progress is not a plant of a healthy growth; it has its root in self-interest, and a frantic desire to close the door of the Middle Kingdom with all possible speed against the encroaching and hated foreigners. And as this could not be done by force of arms, it must even be effected by force of arms, it must even be effected by a rivalry in trade which, with characteristic cunning, they see the chances are on their side.

During the past two days, divers have been at work at the wreck of the *Dunlop*. An attempt will probably be known to-day, when the divers intend making a further inspection.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a pamphlet by Mr. Johannes von Gumpow, entitled "The return of trade at the Treaty Ports in China, as published by the Inspector-General of Customs, critically examined." Reprinted with Additional Notes and an Appendix.

The reward case in which a woman and her husband named Chan Aam and Lam Kiu Sing were charged by Inspector Halloran with unlawfully detaining a girl, named Chan Loen Hong, in No. 83, Nanking-street, from her parents, who had sent her to the *Portuguese* in a small boat, was sent to the court on the 23rd instant. The two prisoners came to trial on the 25th, and the third, fifth, and sixth sent to seven days' imprisonment and the prisoners admitted to bail in the sum of \$25.

Pang Awing and five others were charged by Lai Akwei, chief master, Queen's Road East, the first and second with assaulting him with a stone, the rest with riotous conduct in his house, breaking a marble top table, an easy chair, and cutting his temple. After a great deal of cross-examination, the court sent the seven to seven days' imprisonment.

Liuie Lockhart, who was not married, had lived at No. 1, Walling-street, and was accused of having committed adultery with a woman living with her in the cook house at the time. She did not see the police come and take away the prisoner. After coming out of her house she saw Inspector Horrocks, who came to make inquiry. The two prisoners had gone away then. She did not see Mr. Gutierrez after 2 o'clock, consequently she did not know what had become of him. He blew his whistle and some other constables came and the Portuguese was taken upstairs and pointed out the second-prisoner. He was then placed in a chair and taken to the Hospital, and he took the second-prisoner to the Police station.

Inspector Horrocks produced a certificate to show that the injured man could not attend for a week.

The case was then remanded for one week, and bail refused, till a doctor's certificate can be produced to show that Mr. Gutierrez's life is out of danger.

The first-prisoner said this was because she was afraid she would go out and lose herself. The girl told her that her mistress had already beaten her, and she had no breakfast. She (prisoner) was moved with sympathy, and took her home at the girl's request, and gave her food and shelter from a cruel mistress.

Mr. May: And the same sympathy moved you to go to the girl's house? Inspector Horrocks gave evidence to this effect, when the witness said she was very sorry, and begged ten thousand pardons. She was excited.

It is worship told her he had a duty to perform, and fined her in the sum of \$10.

The prisoner was given time to pay it, namely, till 11 a.m. on the 15th instant.

Prisoner eventually went to pay, where she remained for two hours, when she was released by her companion Louis Lockhart.

JAPANESE TELEGRAPH.

Several changes have taken place in the Japanese Telegraph Department at Nagasaki recently. The Foreign Assistants, Messrs. Ward and Busman, have resigned, and two gentlemen direct from Europe have the respective positions of the Japanese Telegraph will, in April, be conducted in the new building connected with the Post Office Nagasaki. The removal of the office from Saganasaki will unquestionably be a benefit to the foreign community, as the position will then be more central; and from the premises being more commodious and better adapted for carrying on business, and more suitable for the use of the Japanese.

The second-prisoner continued his defence and said a man named Tang Acheong bought home the poster and for his trouble out of the Army Branch of the Bank on the head office at Hongkong in favour of Almoe Dodd & Co., merchants at Amoy, who was then endorsed to Messrs. E. McGregor & Co., merchants in this Colony. The plaintiff is liquidator of the estate of McGregor & Co. The plea raised for the defence were:—that he had no right to sue, for he was a minor; that he was a party to the suit; that Mr. Pyke has resided, we believe, in different parts of China, for the long period of some thirty years. He has earned the respect and esteem of the residents, and will be missed by them, as well as by the large circle of his private friends.

In the Summary Jurisdiction Court yesterday, before Mr. Justice Stanwood, the case of Robert Fletcher and H. Lowcock v. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, \$1,000, was heard. Mr. Bretton appeared for plaintiffs; and Mr. Hayler, Q.C., instructed for defendants. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Tait, was the defendant, and was an action brought for the possession of a sum of money due by the Army Branch of the Bank on the head office at Hongkong in favour of Almoe Dodd & Co., merchants at Amoy, who was then endorsed to Messrs. E. McGregor & Co., merchants in this Colony.

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Danish legation, will set for General Bassoff.

Mr. M. Godeaux, the Consul, during the greater part of the afternoon of the 25th ulto., in hearing a case of alleged threatened assault and riotous conduct—between two half-breed British subjects. The Plaintiff certainly looked big enough to hold his own, and it is necessary to add that the Defendant was not a man of very formidable proportions, particularly when his visage had been assisted by the Plaintiff. The Consul then ruled the code of justice, which would be satisfied by binding Defendant in the sum of £100 to keep the peace for three months.

SHANGHAI.

(From *M. C. Daily News*) It is said that M. Godeaux is likely to go home very shortly, and is to be succeeded by M. Leunire.

The *Kangsoo Maru* met with an accident during her passage from Nagasaki to this port. On the Amakiri Rocks, the key of her propeller dropped, and the propeller was rendered useless. Saiti was made, and the steamer reached port on the 27th ultmo., and was to dock at Tung-kien-on on the morning of the 28th ultmo. for the necessary repairs.

The *Peking Gazette* of the 5th March contains a sensible protest by the late Viceroy of Ningting, against a proposal by the Consul Hsia Tsin-hai to raise funds for repairing the Yellow River, by issuing a loan of 100,000,000 dollars. Saiti was made, and the steamer reached port on the 27th ultmo., and was to dock at Tung-kien-on on the morning of the 28th ultmo. for the necessary repairs.

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